(b) and (s) The work on this road had to be discontinued due to objection raised by the Government of Assam in view of their border dispute with the Government of Nagaland, as also for want of environmental clearance. No proposal has been received to transfer the work to the Nagaland Works and Housing Department.

Strengthening/Modernisation of Armed

3144. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to strengthen and modernise Indian Armed Forces; and

(b) if so, the details of specific steps taken so far or proposed to be taken by Government during the Eighth Plan in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The strengthening/modernisation of the Armed Forces is an ongoing process, which shall be continued during the Eighth Plan as well.

It will not be in the interest of national security to divulge the specific details of such efforts.

Development/Expansion of Defence Industries

3145. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the defence industries in the country need further development and expansion;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government so far in that direction;

(c) whether any programme has been drawn up for Eighth Five Year Plan for the growth and expansion of defence units in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) The need for further development/expansion of the defence industries in the country is examined from time to time, based on the requirements of the Armed Forces. This process will be continued in the Eighth Five Year Plan as well.

In the Ordnance Factories sanctioned projects costing of Rs. 1500 crores are under various stages of implementation.

Talks between India and Pakistan on violations of line of actual control

3146. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks were held between Indian and Pakistani Military Delegations in September, 1991, regarding frequent violations of line of actual control in Kashmir and implementation of the agreements on air space violations and mutual confidence building measures;

(b) if so, the precise subjects considered at the talks; and

(c) what was the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) A Defence delegation visited Pakistan from the 24th to 27th September, 91. During the talks, the situation among with Line of Control/International Border was reviewed and measures to carry the Confidence Building process further were discussed. Agreements were also reached in principle on:

(i) Re-activation of the existing telephone links between Baramula-Murree and Rajouri-Jhelum for use by the concerned Sector Commanders whenever necessary.

(ii) Establishment of communication links between the Air Force and Navies of the two countries.

(iii) Enhancing interaction and exchanges including through participation in seminars organised by respective Institutes of Startegic Studies, exchange of sports teams etc.